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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Shortage of Sulphuric Acid

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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1. A conference took place at the DWK on 9 February 1949 at which a number of chemical specialists and directors of chemical plants in the Soviet Zone were present. Dr. Bertsch, head of the Main Administration Chemicals, DWK, was the chairman.
2. Dr. Bertsch stated during this conference that production of sulphuric acid in the Soviet Zone amounted to approximately 60,000 tons per annum, while requirements were between 200 - 300,000 tons per annum. This low production was the result of the closing down of the plants at Magdeburg and in the Bitterfeld area as the machinery had been removed to the USSR.
3. It is now planned to rebuild these two plants and it is estimated that requirements in steel will amount to 12,000 tons.
4. Rau subsequently informed Dr. Bertsch and Friedlaender, of the Economic Section of the SED Central Secretariat, that this amount of steel would not be available and that as a result sulphuric acid would have to be imported.

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